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Serial No.: 10/037,922

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended) An isolated FGF homolog polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) polypeptide molecules comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 from residue 28 (Glu) to residue 175 (Met);

b) ~~allelic variants of (a);~~ and

c) b) polypeptide molecules that are at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acid residue 28 (Glu) to amino acid residue 175 (Met)

wherein said polypeptide binds to an FGF receptor or is capable of stimulating proliferation of cells derived from mesenchymal stem cells or their precursors.

9. (Currently amended) An isolated FGF homolog polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) polypeptide molecules comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 from residue 28 (Glu) to residue 196 (Lys);

b) ~~allelic variants of (a);~~ and

c) b) polypeptide molecules that are at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acid residue 28 (Glu) to amino acid residue 196 (Lys)

wherein said polypeptide binds to an FGF receptor or is capable of stimulating proliferation of cells derived from mesenchymal stem cells or their precursors.

10. (Currently amended) An isolated FGF homolog polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) polypeptide molecules comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 from residue 28 (Glu) to residue 207 (Ala);

b) ~~allelic variants of (a);~~ and

c) b) polypeptide molecules that are at least 80% identical to the amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acid residue 28 (Glu) to amino acid residue 207 (Ala)